



Docket No. THR-5007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Steve Gara

Serial No. : 10/654,794

Art Unit: 2171

Filed : September 3, 2003

Examiner:

For : BLOOD SEPARATION APPARATUS AND METHOD OF USING THE  
SAME

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the  
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed  
to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

5/17/2005

(Date of Deposit)

Todd F. Volyn

(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

/Todd Volyn/

(Signature)

5/17/2005

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this

information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

☒ In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application (other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, no additional fee is required.

☐ In accordance with §1.129(a), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in connection with ☐ the first or ☐ second After Final Submission, therefore:

☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e)  
(attached); or

☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-  
0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth  
in §1.17(p).

☐ In accordance with §1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in §1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution and that it is accompanied by one of:

- ☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached); or
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☐ In accordance with §1.97(d), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311 but before the payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. Included are: Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) as set forth below and the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☐ Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

☐ Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith EXCEPT THAT:

☐ In view of the voluminous nature of references [list as appropriate], and the likelihood that these references are available to the Examiner, copies are not enclosed herewith.

☐ If any of the foregoing publications are not available to the Examiner, Applicant will endeavor to supply copies at the Examiner's request.

☒ Copies of only foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2). (The U.S. patents and each U.S. patent application publication listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are not

enclosed because this U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003 or this international application has entered the national stage under 35 USC §371 after June 30, 2003 (see USPTO waiver of requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i)).

☐ There are no listed references which are not in the English language.

☒ The relevance of those listed references which are not in the English language is as follows: JP09192215 - English Abstract attached thereto. EP1043071 - English equivalent (US Pat. No. 6,709,377) attached hereto.

☒ Attached are copies of search report(s) from corresponding patent application(s), which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

☐ Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant, which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/THR-5007/TFV. This form is submitted in triplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

/Todd Volyn/  
Todd F. Volyn  
Reg. No. 37,463  
Attorney for Applicants

Johnson & Johnson  
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza  
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003  
(732) 524-6202  
DATED: 5/17/2005





PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 15

Application Number	10/654,794
Filing Date	September 3, 2003
First Named Inventor	Gara
Group Art Unit	2171
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	THR-5007

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		2,983,639		Jageman	05/09/1961	
		3,103,489		Beckman Instruments, Inc.	09/10/1963	
		3,145,713		Latham, Jr.	08/25/1964	
		3,628,445		Webster	12/21/1971	
		3,678,964		Andrews	07/25/1972	
		3,861,972		Glover et al	01/21/1975	
		4,056,224		Lolachi	11/01/1977	
		4,059,108		Latham, Jr.	11/22/1977	
		4,086,924		Latham, Jr.	05/02/1978	
		4,108,353		Brown	08/22/1978	
		4,109,852		Brown et al	08/29/1978	
		4,109,854		Brown	08/29/1978	
		4,109,855		Brown et al	08/29/1978	
		4,113,173		Lolachi	09/12/1978	
		4,114,802		Brown	09/19/1978	
		4,120,448		Cullis	10/17/1978	
		4,120,449		Brown et al	10/17/1978	
		4,164,318		Boggs	08/14/1979	
		4,194,684		Boggs	03/25/1980	
		4,204,537		Latham, Jr.	05/27/1980	

Examiner  
Signature

Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2 of 15

<b>Application Number</b>	10/654,794
<b>Filing Date</b>	September 3, 2003
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Gara
<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2171
<b>Examiner Name</b>	
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	THR-5007

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		4,204,537		Latham, Jr.	05/27/1980	
		4,221,322		Drago et al	09/09/1980	
		4,230,263		Westberg	10/28/1980	
		4,245,383		Boggs	1/20/1981	
		4,261,507		Baumler	4/14/1981	
		4,285,464		Latham, Jr.	8/25/1981	
		4,300,717		Latham, Jr.	11/17/1981	
		4,303,193		Latham, Jr.	12/01/1981	
		4,344,560		Iriguchi et al	8/17/1982	
		4,372,484		Larsson et al	02/08/1983	
		4,389,206		Bacehowski et al	06/21/1983	
		4,407,295		Steuer et al	10/04/1983	
		4,417,884		Schoendorfer et al	11/29/1983	
		4,421,503		Latham, Jr. et al	12/20/1983	
		4,425,112		Ito	1/10/1984	
		4,439,178		Mulzet	3/27/1984	
		4,440,195		van Dongeren	4/3/1984	
		4,459,169		Bacehowski et al	7/10/1984	
		4,517,404		Hughes et al	5/14/1985	

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS, SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 3 of 15

<b>Application Number</b>	10/654,794
<b>Filing Date</b>	September 3, 2003
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Gara
<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2171
<b>Examiner Name</b>	
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	THR-5007

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		4,540,397		Lolachi et al	09/10/1985	
		4,573,960		Goss	03/04/1986	
		4,573,962		Troutner	03/04/1986	
		4,578,056		King et al	03/25/1986	
		4,636,346		Gold et al	01/13/1987	
		4,692,136		Feldman et al	09/08/1987	
		4,708,712		Mulzet	11/24/1987	
		4,737,140		Lee et al	04/12/1988	
		Des. 312,128		Headley	11/13/1990	
		4,710,161		Takabayashi et al	12/01/1987	
		4,734,089		Cullis	03/29/1988	
		4,767,396		Powers	08/30/1988	
		4,775,794		Behmann	10/04/1988	
		4,776,964		Schoendorfer et al	10/11/1988	
		4,778,444		Westberg et al	10/18/1988	
		4,806,252		Brown et al	02/21/1989	
		4,854,933		Mull	08/08/1989	
		4,857,190		Wada et al	08/15/1989	
		4,859,333		Panzani	08/22/1989	
		4,865,081		Neumann et al	09/12/1989	
		4,866,282		Miripol et al	09/12/1989	

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 4 of 15	<b>Application Number</b>	10/654,794
	<b>Filing Date</b>	September 3, 2003
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Gara
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2171
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	
	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	THR-5007

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		4,876,014		Malson	10/24/1989	
		4,879,031		Panzani	11/07/1989	
		4,889,524		Fell et al	12/26/1989	
		4,898,571		Epper et al	02/06/1990	
		4,911,833		Schoendorfer et al	03/27/1990	
		4,943,273		Pages	07/24/1990	
		4,950,401		Unger et al	08/21/1990	
		4,983,158		Headley	01/08/1991	
		4,986,442		Hinterreiter	01/22/1991	
		4,997,577		Stewart	03/05/1991	
		5,039,401		Columbus et al	08/13/1991	
		5,053,127		Schoendorfer et al	10/01/1991	
		5,061,381		Burd	10/29/1991	
		5,076,911		Brown et al	12/31/1991	
		5,078,671	A	Dennehey et al	01/07/1992	
		5,097,870	A	Williams	03/24/1992	
		5,100,372	A	Headley	03/31/1992	
		5,104,526	A	Brown et al	04/14/1992	
		5,147,290	A	Jonsson	09/15/1992	
		5,160,310	A	Yhland	11/03/1992	
		5,186,844	A	Burd et al	02/16/1993	
		5,217,426	A	Bacehowski et al	06/08/1993	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 5 of 15	<b>Application Number</b>	10/654,794
	<b>Filing Date</b>	September 3, 2003
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Gara
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2171
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	
	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	THR-5007

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		5,217,427	A	Cullis	06/08/1993	
		5,224,921	A	Dennehey et al	07/06/1993	
		5,240,614	A	Ofsthun et al	08/31/1993	
		5,254,248	A	Nakamura	10/19/1993	
		5,273,517	A	Barone et al	12/28/1993	
		5,281,342	A	Biesel et al	01/25/1994	
		5,298,171	A	Biesel	03/29/1994	
		5,305,799	A	Dal Palu	04/26/1994	
		5,316,667	A	Brown	05/31/1994	
		5,322,620	A	Brown et al	06/21/1994	
		5,332,500	A	Seureau et al	07/26/1994	
		5,360,542	A	Williamson, IV et al	11/01/1994	
		5,362,291	A	Williamson, IV	11/08/1994	
		5,370,802	A	Brown	12/06/1994	
		5,372,136	A	Steuer et al	12/13/1994	
		5,405,308	A	Headley et al	04/11/1995	
		5,427,509	A	Chapman et al	06/27/1995	
		5,427,695	A	Brown	06/27/1995	
		5,437,598	A	Antwiler	08/01/1995	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS, SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 6 of 15

<b>Application Number</b>	10/654,794
<b>Filing Date</b>	September 3, 2003
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Gara
<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2171
<b>Examiner Name</b>	
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	THR-5007

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		5,443,451	A	Chapman et al	08/22/1995	
		5,445,506	A	Afflerbaugh et al	08/29/1995	
		5,445,593	A	Biesel et al	08/29/1995	
		5,460,493	A	Deniega et al	10/24/1995	
		5,462,416	A	Dennehey et al	10/31/1995	
		5,480,294	A	Di Perna et al	01/02/1996	
		5,482,440	A	Dennehey et al	01/09/1996	
		5,494,578	A	Brown et al	02/27/1996	
		5,494,592	A	Lathan, Jr. et al	02/27/1996	
		5,494,578	A	Brown et al	02/27/1996	
		5,501,840	A	Mantovani et al	03/26/1996	
		5,505,685	A	Antwiler	04/09/1996	
		5,514,069	A	Brown et al	05/07/1996	
		5,514,070	A	Pages	05/07/1996	
		5,525,218	A	Williamson, IV et al	06/11/1996	
		5,527,467	A	Ofsthun et al	06/18/1996	
		5,527,472	A	Bellotti et al	06/18/1996	
		5,529,691	A	Brown	06/25/1996	
		5,538,405	A	Patno et al	07/23/1996	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS, SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 7 of 15

<b>Application Number</b>	10/654,794
<b>Filing Date</b>	September 3, 2003
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Gara
<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2171
<b>Examiner Name</b>	
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	THR-5007

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		5,549,834	A	Brown	08/27/1996	
		5,551,942	A	Brown et al	09/03/1996	
		5,573,678	A	Brown et al	11/12/1996	
		5,591,113	A	Darnell et al	01/07/1997	
		5,591,643	A	Schembri	01/07/1997	
		5,607,579	A	Latham, Jr. et al	03/04/1997	
		5,628,915	A	Brown et al	05/13/1997	
		5,632,893	A	Brown et al	5/27/1997	
		5,634,893	A	Rishton	06/03/1997	
		5,637,082	A	Pages et al	06/10/1997	
		5,639,382	A	Brown	06/17/1997	
		5,641,414	A	Brown	06/24/1997	
		5,641,622	A	Lake et al	06/24/1997	
		5,643,193	A	Papillon et al	07/01/1997	
		5,651,766	A	Kingsley et al	07/29/1997	
		5,656,163	A	Brown	08/12/1997	
		5,676,841	A	Brown	10/14/1997	
		5,681,273	A	Brown	10/28/1997	
		5,690,602	A	Brown et al	11/25/1997	

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS, SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 8 of 15

<b>Application Number</b>	10/654,794
<b>Filing Date</b>	September 3, 2003
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Gara
<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2171
<b>Examiner Name</b>	
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	THR-5007

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		5,690,835	A	Brown	11/25/1997	
		5,693,232	A	Brown et al	12/02/1997	
		5,702,357	A	Bainbridge et al	12/30/1997	
		5,704,887	A	Slowik et al	01/06/1998	
		5,728,060	A	Kingsley	03/17/1998	
		5,730,883	A	Brown	03/24/1998	
		5,738,644	A	Holmes et al	04/14/1998	
		5,738,784	A	Holm et al	04/14/1998	
		5,750,039	A	Brown	05/12/1998	
		5,759,147	A	Bacehowski et al	06/02/1998	
		5,759,413	A	Brown	06/02/1998	
		5,769,811	A	Stacey et al	06/23/1998	
		5,779,660	A	Kingsley et al	07/14/1998	
		5,785,869	A	Martinson et al	07/28/1998	
		5,792,372	A	Brown et al	08/11/1998	
		5,804,079	A	Brown	09/08/1998	
		5,807,492	A	Brown et al	09/15/1998	
		5,833,866	A	Brown	11/10/1998	
		5,849,203	A	Brown et al	12/15/1998	
		5,855,773	A	Lasota	01/05/1999	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 9 of 15

<b>Application Number</b>	10/654,794
<b>Filing Date</b>	September 3, 2003
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Gara
<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2171
<b>Examiner Name</b>	
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	THR-5007

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		5,868,695	A	Wolf, Jr. et al	02/09/1999	
		5,870,805	A	Kandler et al	02/16/1999	
		5,906,598	A	Giesler et al	05/25/1999	
		5,916,743	A	Lake et al	06/29/1999	
		5,919,125	A	Berch	07/06/1999	
		5,921,909	A	Gustafsson	07/13/1999	
		5,935,051	A	Bell	08/10/1999	
		5,948,271	A	Wardwell et al	09/07/1999	
		5,958,250	A	Brown et al	09/28/1999	
		5,951,509	A	Morris	09/14/1999	
		5,961,842	A	Min et al	10/05/1999	
		5,976,388	A	Carson	11/02/1999	
		5,980,757	A	Brown et al	11/09/1999	
		5,980,760	A	Min et al	11/09/1999	
		5,989,177	A	West et al	11/23/1999	
		5,993,370	A	Brown et al	11/30/1999	
		5,996,634	A	Dennehey et al	12/07/1999	
		6,007,509	A	Kingsley et al	12/28/1999	
		6,007,725	A	Brown	12/18/1999	
		6,027,655	A	Holm	02/22/2000	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark

<b>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary) <b>Sheet 10 of 15</b>	<b>Application Number</b>	10/654,794
	<b>Filing Date</b>	September 3, 2003
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Gara
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2171
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	
	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	THR-5007

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		6,027,657	A	Min et al	02/22/2000	
		6,056,522	A	Johnson	05/02/2000	
		6,059,979	A	Brown	05/09/2000	
		6,071,421	A	Brown	06/06/2000	
		6,071,423	A	Brown et al	06/06/2000	
		6,080,322	A	Deniega et al	06/27/2000	
		6,102,883	A	Kingsley et al	08/15/2000	
		6,123,655	A	Fell	09/26/2000	
		6,129,656	A	Blakeslee et al	10/10/2000	
		6,168,561	B1	Cantu et al	01/02/2001	
		6,179,801	B1	Holmes et al	01/30/2001	
		6,183,651	B1	Brown et al	02/06/2001	
		6,183,407	B1	Hallgren et al	02/06/2001	
		6,186,752	B1	Deniega et al	02/13/2001	
		6,196,987	B1	Holmes et al	03/06/2001	
		6,197,202	B1	Brown	03/06/2001	
		6,200,287	B1	Keller et al	03/13/2001	
		6,207,063	B1	Brown	03/27/2001	
		2001/0000185	A1	Keller et al	04/05/2001	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS, SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 11 of 15

<b>Application Number</b>	10/654,794
<b>Filing Date</b>	September 3, 2003
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Gara
<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2171
<b>Examiner Name</b>	
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	THR-5007

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		6,219,584		K.H. Lee	04/17/2001	
		6,228,017	B1	Brown	05/08/2001	
		6,231,537	B1	Holmes et al	05/15/2001	
		6,248,053	B1	Ehnstrom et al	06/19/2001	
		2001/0004444	A1	Haser et al	06/21/2001	
		6,251,056	B1	Berger et al	06/26/2001	
		6,261,065	B1	Nayak et al	07/17/2001	
		6,261,217	B1	Unger et al	07/17/2001	
		6,273,849	B1	Scherer	08/14/2001	
		20010024623	A1	Grimm et al	09/27/2001	
		6,273,849	B1	Scherer	08/14/2001	
		6,296,450	B1	Westberg et al	10/02/2001	
		6,312,593	B1	Petrie	11/06/2001	
		6,312,607	B1	Brown et al	11/06/2001	
		6,315,707	B1	Smith et al	11/13/2001	
		6,322,488	B1	Westberg et al	11/27/2001	
		6,334,842	B1	Hlavinka et al	01/01/2002	
		6,346,069	B1	Collier	02/12/2002	
		6,348,031	B1	Unger et al	02/19/2002	
		6,348,156	B1	Vishnoi et al	02/19/2002	
		6,352,499	B1	Geigle	03/05/2002	
		20020032112	A1	Pages	03/14/2002	
		6,379,322	B1	Kingsley	04/30/2002	
		6,387,263	B1	Bhaskar et al	05/14/2002	

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

<sup>1</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 12 of 15	<b>Application Number</b>	10/654,794
	<b>Filing Date</b>	September 3, 2003
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Gara
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2171
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	
	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	THR-5007

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		2002/0068674	A1	Hlavinka et al	06/06/2002	
		2002/0068675	A1	Felt et al	06/06/2002	
		2002/0091057	A1	Westberg et al	07/11/2002	
		2002/0099319	A1	Saito et al	07/25/2002	
		2002/0142909	A1	Sakota	10/03/2002	
		2002/0147094	A1	Dolecek	10/10/2002	
		6,464,624	B2	Pages	10/15/2002	
		6,475,132	B2	Zettier	11/05/2002	
		6,491,656	B1	Morris	12/10/2002	
		6,511,411	B1	Brown	01/28/2003	
		6,514,189	B1	Hlavinka et al	02/04/2003	
		6,524,231	B1	Westberg et al	02/25/2003	
		6,544,162	B1	Van Wie et al	04/08/2003	
		6,544,416	B2	Helwig	04/08/2003	
		6,554,788	B1	Hunley et al	04/29/2003	
		2003/0085185	A1	Kouba	05/08/2003	
		2003/0094425	A1	Brandt et al	05/22/2003	
		6,558,307	B2	Headley	05/06/2003	
		2003/0106858	A1	Elsom Sharpe	06/12/2003	
		6,582,349	B1	Cantu et al	06/24/2003	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
-----------------------	--------------------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 13 of 15

<b>Application Number</b>	10/654,794
<b>Filing Date</b>	September 3, 2003
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Gara
<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2171
<b>Examiner Name</b>	
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	THR-5007

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		2003/0114289	A1	Merino et al	06/19/2003	
		2003/0102272	A1	Brown	06/05/2003	
		6,582,350	B2	Dolecek	06/24/2003	
		6,579,219	B2	Dolecek et al	06/17/2003	
		2003/0116506	A1	Lane	06/26/2003	
		2003/0116512	A1	Delbert Antwiler et al	06/26/2003	
		6,589,153	B2	Dolecek et al	07/08/2003	
		6,589,155	B2	Dolecek	07/08/2003	
		6,596,179	B2	Giesler et al	07/22/2003	
		6,596,180	B2	Baugh et al	07/22/2003	
		6,596,181	B2	Dolecek et al	07/22/2003	
		2003/0136739	A1	Kirkland et al	07/24/2003	
		2003/0146170	A1	Corbin, III et al	08/07/2003	
		2003/0155312	A1	Ivansons et al	08/21/2003	
		6,605,223	B2	Jorgensen et al	08/12/2003	
		6,607,473	B2	Collier	08/19/2003	
		6,610,002	B2	Dolecek	08/26/2003	
		6,612,975	B2	Malcom et al	09/02/2003	
		6,616,589	B1	Maehans	09/09/2003	

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS, SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 14 of 15

<b>Application Number</b>	10/654,794
<b>Filing Date</b>	September 3, 2003
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Gara
<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2171
<b>Examiner Name</b>	
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	THR-5007

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		6,709,377		J.D. Rochat	03/23/2004	
		2003/0173274	A1	Corbin, III et al	09/18/2003	

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	KindCode <sup>5</sup>				
		EP	608519	A2	Rochat	08/03/1994		
		EP	112990	A2	Mulzet	03/27/1984		
		EP	268025	B1	Sagusa	05/25/1988		
		EP	749771	A2	Brown	12/27/1996		
		EP	755708	A2	Brown	01/29/1997		
		EP	779077	A1	Papillon	06/18/1997		
		EP	799645	A1	Sakota	10/08/1997		
		EP	1241249	A1	Schuler	09/18/2002		
		EP	1252918	A2	Brown	10/30/2002		
		EP	1138392	A2	Sakota	10/04/2001		
		DE	4220232	A1	Witthaus et al	09/27/1994		
		DE	3817664	A1	J. Theissen et al	11/30/1989		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 15 of 15

<b>Application Number</b>	10/654,794
<b>Filing Date</b>	September 3, 2003
<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Gara
<b>Group Art Unit</b>	2171
<b>Examiner Name</b>	
<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	THR-5007

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	KindCode <sup>5</sup>				
		EP	1043071	A1	J.D. Rochat	10/11/2000		
		FR	2305238	A1	Lolachi	09/12/1978		
		WO	93/12887	A1	Williamson	07/08/1993		
		WO	94/08687	A1	Brown	04/28/1994		
		WO	94/08688	A1	Brown	04/28/1994		
		WO	94/29722	A1	Saunders	12/22/1994		
		WO	96/25234	A1	Gustafsson	08/22/1996		
		WO	98/48938	A1	Van Wie	11/05/1998		
		WO	99/02269	A1	Berch	01/21/1999		
		WO	99/23471	A1	Sitar	05/14/1999		
		WO	01/17651	A1	Westberg	03/15/2001		
		WO	01/17653	A1	Smith	03/15/2001		
		WO	02/40176	A1	Henriksson	05/23/2002		
		WO	03/000026	A2	Robinson	01/03/2003		
		WO	03/013686	A1	Bayer	02/20/2003		
		JP	2001/070832		Mizuniwa et al	09/09/1999	Patent Abstract	
		WO	01/24848	A1	Gambro Inc.	04/12/2001		
		EP	0297216		Dideco Spa	01/04/1989		
		JP	09192215		Takaharu Nakane	07/29/1997	Patent Abstract	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.